

info from Decca

This week's single is by **BIG TOM AND THE MAINLINERS**, who are already big time in Ireland. 'Flowers for Mama' is the title, and should ensure that their fame spreads much further afield. This is on Emerald MD 1130.

We've all been working our fingers to the bone to produce a catalogue of progressive music which, in case you didn't know, we've got a lot of. This catalogue, apart from looking good, is very informative, and you can get your own copy by sending an S.A.E. to the address at the end of the column. It's very useful because as well as giving details of current albums from such names as the Rolling Stones, John Mayall and the Moody Blues, it highlights albums from lesser-known and unknown artists that would have difficulty reaching the public ear. Few people are likely to give ten minutes airtime to a profound piece of music by an unknown artist when they can cram three pieces of bubblegum into the same slot.

William R. Strickland, for instance, is hardly a household word, and yet his album is worth making a very



long journey to hear. The amazing thing about it is it's spontaneous. Strickland doesn't stop to compose anything or translate his thoughts into dot patterns. He just sings—the words are straight from the top of his head. East of Eden have been working very hard building a reputation as a fine live group, as have the Deviants, and both have albums out which are too good to miss.

Keef Hartley is going to the States shortly, and he is sure to be a raving success—people over there seem to be a lot more receptive. But then, if you don't know about the records you'll never know whether you like them or not. Martha Velez will, I'm convinced, become a legendary figure. Ten Years After already are, and deservedly so. There's even some electronic music.

So, if you'd like a copy of the pamphlet, get busy before they're all gone. Oh yes, and they're FREE.

DECCA group records

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BELLS ARE RINGING! For Robin and his hit single

By BOB FARMER

THE SOLO singing career of Robin Gibb lifted off safely into chart orbit this week with the Top 20 arrival of his first single 'Saved By The Bell'.

And Robin, experiencing that weightless feeling of freedom after 14 weeks of enforced isolation while his bid to break away from the Bee Gees was battered over by legal experts, smiles and says: 'I'm so much happier now that 'Saved By The Bell' has been released.

"I made that record way back at the end of March, immediately following my split from the Bee Gees. I'm not bored by it at all—I obviously had confidence in the song itself—but it has been lying around my house for three months. It's been a long wait for my freedom.

"I've been a bit of a recluse, and self-sequestered. I have a sense of well-being without the feeling that there's someone there obstructing me from what I want to do. I can be a singer, an actor, a writer, and I want to give all these things equal attention.

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